

The United States is the beacon of freedom to the world. As such, we cannot sit idly by and watch India trample on the religious freedom of its minorities. We should put this Congress on record in support of peaceful, democratic freedom movements in South Asia and throughout the world.

The United States recently allowed Puerto Rico to vote on its status; our Canadian neighbors held a similar referendum in Quebec. When do the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, and the other peoples living under Indian rule get their chance to exercise this basic democratic right? Will we support democratic freedom for the people of South Asia, or will we look away while the tyranny of the majority continues to suppress fundamental rights like freedom of religion?

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY DOLLAR BILL ACT

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of attending Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Virginia and participating in their presentation of the Liberty Dollar Bill Act. This is the finest presentation I have ever witnessed by a group of high school and middle school students.

The Liberty Dollar Bill Act would redesign the one dollar note and place an abbreviated version of the Constitution on its reverse side. It is a real tragedy that an overwhelming majority of Americans cannot name the liberties granted them in the Constitution. The Liberty Dollar Bill is important because it would teach Americans the framework of American Government and the liberties of freedom found in the Constitution. It would spread the ideals of representative democracy around the world and allow U.S. soldiers stationed abroad to read, show, and teach the ideal for which they are willing to give their lives. The Liberty Dollar Bill would ensure that we leave our government in good condition for our posterity and honor the Constitution as an American symbol.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I reintroduce the Liberty Dollar Bill Act today on behalf of the students at Patrick Henry High School, Liberty Middle School, their teacher Randy Wright, and forty Members of Congress.

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I come before the House of Representatives to wish a happy 100th birthday to Mt. Rainier National Park in the 8th Congressional District in the state of Washington. Like many others from Washington, I am tempted to say "my moun-

tain" because that's how we all feel about Mt. Rainier—it belongs to each of us. It also gives the 8th district distinction as the most beautiful district in the nation.

Mt. Rainier National Park was established March 2, 1899 as our fifth national park. The park itself encompasses 378 square miles. At its highest point, the mountain is 14,411 feet, so it's not surprising that more than 2 million people visit the park each year to enjoy its moist rainforest, giant old growth forests, sub-alpine meadows, and glaciers.

But Rainier is more than just a national park. It is an integral part of the network of communities that surround its boundaries and form a gateway that visitors pass through when visiting the area. These communities support the park and the park supports them.

It would be hard to imagine many people in Washington who can't go through their personal or family photo albums and find pictures of themselves with friends or family during a visit to the mountain. And every one of those photos tells a story. It is so with my family. Our family and friends all grew up in the shadow of "our" mountain spending time in a cabin near Greenwater and venturing into the park many times during every season.

It was always amazing to me that for all the trails we hiked, streams we crossed, picnics we enjoyed, glaciers we climbed, it was new and different every time. We never tired of "our" mountain. I can't imagine I ever will. As a Member of Congress, I have been given the opportunity to see the park and mountain from a different vantage point. Rather than just a visitor, I am now an active partner in helping to maintain the park and protect it for future generations.

The theme of the centennial celebration is "A Century of Resource Stewardship." To underscore this theme, the park has undertaken a series of signature projects. These include the Sunrise Ecological Restoration Project, rehabilitation of the White River Patrol Cabin, and completion of the last mile of the Wonderland Trail.

In February, Northwest Airlines began airing a special video about the Mt. Rainier Centennial that airs on international flights landing at Sea Tac Airport. Today, the celebration begins with a birthday cake and a ceremony to announce a collectible cancelled stamp at Longmire in the park. I am honored to participate in this ceremony kicking off the official celebration.

Throughout this year the centennial committee has planned exciting projects and activities to celebrate the park's 100th birthday. For instance, the Tacoma/Pierce County Visitor and Convention Bureau and the gateway communities have joined together to host several special weekends of festivals and activities, and renowned mountain climber, Lou Whittaker, is leading a special "Centennial Climb" to the summit of Mt. Rainier. Lou's climbing group will include international mountain climbers as well as celebrities who have climbed with Lou in the past.

My colleagues, if you haven't made vacation plans or visited Mt. Rainier National Park before, this is surely the time to come to Washington and join us in our celebration. And, perhaps on your way up to the park or while you're enjoying a latte somewhere in Seattle,

you will have that special experience that separates us in Washington from the rest of the world. You or someone you're with may look South to the horizon and say, "Look! The mountain is out today!"

IRA EXPANSION NEEDED

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the current tax system has many problems, but one of its main defects is its bias against personal saving. Personal saving is taxed once out of income, and then the return to saving is taxed once again. This multiple taxation penalizes personal saving, a major source of economic growth. So it is no surprise that America has one of the lowest personal savings rates in the world.

This bias can be addressed by increasing the tax deduction for IRA contributions, currently set at \$2,000 annually. Today I am introducing legislation to boost IRA deduction limits \$500 per year over several years. When fully phased in, a middle class family could deduct up to \$7,000 for an annual IRA contribution. I strongly urge that an increase in IRA deductions be a part of any tax relief plan offered in this Congress.

An increase in IRA deductions would help middle class families save for the future, become more financially independent, and become better able to deal with unexpected events. Expanded IRAs would also give middle class families a greater stake in the U.S. economic system. It is a tax incentive that average Americans would understand and strongly support.

An increase in IRA deductions would increase personal saving, a major source of investment and economic growth. This would help firms to supply their workers with the best and most advanced tools, thus increasing their productivity and income. The current treatment of saving in our tax code is literally counterproductive. This is hampering our economy over the long term and reducing the American standard of living relative to what it would otherwise be.

Many in Washington bemoan the low savings rate, but if we want personal saving to increase, we should increase IRA deductions for middle class taxpayers. A tax code that penalizes saving and investment makes no sense. Middle class taxpayers need a means of addressing their responsibilities to save for retirement, higher education, medical expenses and long term care, and unemployment. My legislation provides for penalty-free withdrawals for these purposes. Federal tax policy should not discriminate against taxpayers willing and able to take on these responsibilities but are prevented from doing so by the destructive impact of the current tax system. Let's limit the tax discrimination against personal saving.